

hope and expectation is that we are going to move it as quickly as possible. With the President's support, we should be able to accomplish that in a short while.

In Vermont, I can tell you there are many seniors making the difficult choice about whether or not to heat their homes or pay for prescription drugs. Those are choices Americans should not have to make. Many seniors are also going to be seeing an increase in the cost of Medicare Part D.

If we do not deliver on this one-time \$250 payment, you are going to see millions of seniors with a reduced amount in their Social Security check. That is not acceptable.

I think we are making some progress on this issue. Again, I thank Senator REID for his strong support, Speaker PELOSI for her support, and most important, the President for his support. Let's get this done on behalf of seniors and disabled veterans. I think we will have done something that is very important.

With that, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### RETIREMENT OF FURMAN BISHER

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. President, I rise to honor a giant in the world of journalism, Furman Bisher.

Last Saturday, after nearly 60 years of elegant observation of the sports world for the Atlanta Journal-Constitution, my friend Furman Bisher pecked out his last and final column before retirement on the thinning keys of his trusty, old Royal typewriter. His choice of instrument to convey his thoughts in this age of instantaneous, inane chatter says a lot about why newspaper readers, after all these years, have continued to seek out his column on the AJC's sports page.

It all comes down to this: Furman's graceful prose, courtly voice, and sharp observations are unfailingly backed up by his old-fashioned shoe-leather reporting. He gloried in doing his homework, making that extra call, interviewing one more player or assistant coach or trainer in order to breathe even more life into the game or the race or the fight for his readers.

It is also why Furman has become a Georgian—and American—institution.

Simply put, Furman Bisher loved sports and he loved journalism. At age 90, he was still driving out on summer nights to cover minor league baseball games.

In his career, Furman scored many journalistic knockouts, including a 1949 interview with Shoeless Joe Jackson, the only one Jackson ever gave re-

garding his involvement in the 1919 Black Sox scandal.

He got stock tips from Ty Cobb and watched every Masters, including Jack Nicklaus's 1986 Masters victory, which he gloried in. He sat in the press box at countless Falcons games at Atlanta-Fulton County Stadium and the Georgia Dome and covered the Olympics, both winter and summer.

He wrote 11 books, including co-authoring two editions of a Hank Aaron autobiography. At the Masters Tournament in Augusta every April, Furman reigned among the azaleas and oaks as the dean of the sports press corps.

In a testament to his longevity in a tough business, Furman has covered every Kentucky Derby since 1950 and every Super Bowl but the first one.

Furman even branched out into TV. Although I did not grow up in Atlanta, I have heard from many people that preachers across the city would cut a sermon short so that their congregations could be home for Furman's kick-off on "Football Review."

Along the way, he earned the respect of his colleagues and the loyalty of his readers, garnering writing awards too numerous to mention. Red Smith is acknowledged as probably the dean of all journalists from a sports perspective, and Furman Bisher has often been referred to as the "Red Smith of the South." He served as president of the National Sportscasters and Sportswriters Association from 1974 to 1976, and of the Football Writers Association of America from 1959 to 1960. His features have appeared in *The Saturday Evening Post*, *Golf Digest*, and *Sports Illustrated*, to name but a few.

In 1961, *Time* magazine named him one of the five best columnists in the Nation. I would argue that even today, that honor still fits.

No less than the great Jack Nicklaus said of Furman's retirement:

He might be turning in his last column for the newspaper, but Furman will never stop writing or giving his opinion. I guess you could say that when it comes to the last writings of Furman Bisher, I will believe it when I don't see it.

Furman would close every column with a single valediction—the word "selah," a Hebrew word that ends many Psalms and that exhorts the reader to reflect.

It is appropriate then to reflect on Furman's long, fruitful career, one that began in Atlanta as the Korean war was starting, when Joe Louis was still boxing, when the Minneapolis Lakers were the NBA champs, before Willie Mays had joined the Major Leagues, and before *Sports Illustrated* even existed.

Ever since, with wit and style, Furman Bisher has chronicled the triumphs and the travails of the sports world and its often all too human heroes.

Furman is leaving the AJC at almost 91 years old, and he is still going strong. While we may not be seeing his

column on a regular basis, I am quite sure we have not heard the last of Furman Bisher. As Furman would say, selah. I am thankful for Furman Bisher.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I know the hour is late and many are ready to end the week. I wish to say a few words tonight about the challenge we have with regard to Afghanistan and Pakistan and our strategy going forward.

I spent some time in the last couple of weeks talking about the obligation we have in the Senate to have a full debate on these issues and not simply to point down Pennsylvania Avenue and say the White House has to do this or that or the President has to do this or that.

It is important, I believe, that the President and his team have taken the kind of time they have to get the strategy right with regard to Afghanistan and Pakistan. But I believe the Congress has a role to play. If we simply fall into partisan corners with regard to our strategy in Afghanistan and dust off and reintroduce talking points from the war in Iraq, we will not get it right; we will get it wrong.

I believe we have to listen to a lot of different points of view. The President has undertaken that kind of review, and we have to do that as well.

Part of that is doing what we have already begun to do, which is to have a series of hearings.

In the Foreign Relations Committee, we have had a number of hearings. I know the Presiding Officer, as a member of the Intelligence Committee and his work as a Senator, has engaged in this review as well. We are trying to get different points of view in front of us. I know Chairman KERRY and the Foreign Relations Committee have had too many hearings to count, and not just in the last couple of weeks but over many months.

Chairman LEVIN and the Armed Services Committee have outlined a strategy, or at least an approach to part of a strategy, to focus on building up the Afghan National Army and the police on an accelerated basis so we can begin to move the responsibility more to the Afghan people and the Afghan governing institutions as opposed to having the United States and other coalition partners bear this responsibility solely. Chairman LEVIN has spent a good deal of time trying to contribute to this debate.

We have heard both Democrats and Republicans contributing to this discussion. As much as we have heard